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Letter dated 5 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, issued on 3 June 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fesseha A. **Tessema**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement issued on 3 June 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

It is to be recalled that on 31 May 2000, following the defeat of Eritrea's aggression and the liberation of Ethiopian territories formerly under Eritrean occupation, Ethiopia had declared that, as far as it was concerned, the war was over. The Ethiopian Government further stated then that it was concentrating on diplomatic efforts to reach a solution to the crisis between the two countries. This is still the case, and Ethiopia is constructively engaged in the talks in Algiers convened by the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), President Bouteflika of Algeria.

The Eritrean regime, however, in a futile attempt to deny its defeat, is continuing to insist that the war is not over. In order to demonstrate the continuation of the conflict, and with a view to scuttling once again the peace talks under way in Algiers, the Eritrean regime has carried out serious military provocations on various fronts.

A few days ago, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front regime launched repeated attacks around AdiQuala. Similar provocations were witnessed in the Senafe area as well. Again on the Bure front, Eritrean forces are launching attacks from their base some 38 kilometres from Assab. On that front, on 2 June, two enemy battalions were activated together with an artillery barrage.

The Ethiopian Government declared on 31 May that even though the war was over as far as Ethiopia was concerned, any future provocations by the enemy would be decisively dealt with. In this light, the Ethiopian Defence Force has responded robustly to enemy provocations in both the AdiQuala and Senafe areas. In like manner, the Eritrean military's aggressive actions in Bure are being resolutely rebuffed.

Despite the efforts of the Eritrean regime to rekindle the flames of war, the position of Ethiopia is unchanged. Ethiopia considers the war to be over, and what is now required is the reaching of a settlement under the auspices of the OAU in Algiers.

Under these circumstances, the Eritrean regime will have to bear full responsibility for any destruction that is caused by the needless prolongation of the conflict.